GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1776
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2002
ACQUISITION OF SOPHISTICATED SUBMARINES
RAM SHAKAL;RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has an edge over India with regard to sophisticated submarines due to which India is under pressure to acquire sophisticated submarines so as to meet this eventuality;

(b) if so, whether Indian Navy has been demanding for expansion and modernization of its fleet for a long time; and

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to procure sophisticated submarines from France;

(d) if so, the time by which the said submarines are likely to be procured; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to meet the requirement of Indian Navy?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e): Government have approved a long term perspective plan for indigenous construction of submarines and acquisition of national competence in submarine building. Requisite assistance in high technology areas from foreign sources is envisaged to achieve the desired objective. France is one of the likely sources from whom such assistance can become available. A final decision has, however, not yet been taken in this regard. In addition, some of the existing submarines are also in the process of being upgraded.